



**Director of
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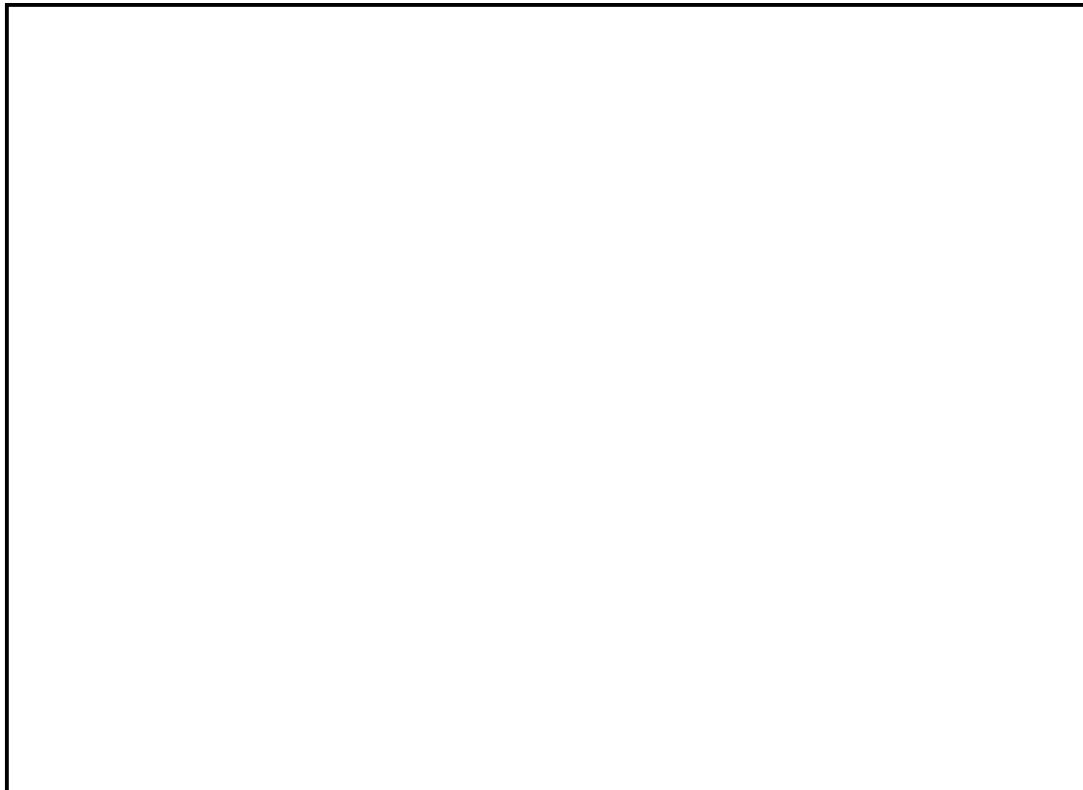
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Japan: Candidates for Liberal Democratic Party President

	Candidate	Faction/Strength in Diet	Support Claimed (Total party members: 1,050,000)
	Yasuhiro Nakasone Director General, Administrative Management Agency Age: 64 Outspoken nationalist; favors increased cooperation with US; longtime advocate of revitalized military capability.	Nakasone/50	280,000-540,000 Nakasone faction: 80,000-180,000 Tanaka faction: 100,000-180,000 Suzuki faction: 100,000-180,000
	Toshio Komoto Director General, Economic Planning Agency Age: 71 Good reputation in business community; advocates domestic economic expansion and increased imports rather than export restraints; favors improved US-Japanese defense ties and increased defense spending.	Komoto/43	300,000-400,000
	Shintaro Abe Minister of International Trade and Industry Age: 58 Has given little ground on trade talks with US, but regards US- Japanese relationship as key element in Japan's foreign policy; advocates measures to stimulate domestic economy.	Fukuda/76	100,000-180,000
	Ichiro Nakagawa Director General, Science and Technology Agency Age: 57 Close ties to agricultural interests; jingoistic advocate of maintenance of strong US-Japanese ties; favors independent military capability.	Nakagawa/13	70,000-120,000

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① JAPAN: Primary Race Begins

3/7 The four candidates for president of the Liberal Democratic Party launched their primary campaigns on Saturday after the coalition of Prime Minister Suzuki, former Prime Minister Tanaka, and faction leader Nakasone failed to agree with the opposing forces led by former Prime Minister Fukuda on a successor to Suzuki. [redacted]

3/7 Comment: As a result, the primary may be held on 16 November, a week earlier than previously scheduled. Party Dietmen are to caucus the next day to elect the party president from the top three votegetters. One candidate wants to dispense with the caucus so that the primary winner would be declared president. [redacted]

7 With party leaders already bickering over election mechanics, it is unclear how the primary battle will unfold. Even so, it could be a close race between Nakasone and Komoto. [redacted]

3/6 During the past four years, Komoto has cultivated grass-roots support and is widely reputed to command the largest number of votes. Rank-and-file support is not firmly committed, however, and Nakasone's backers will use their extensive influence with party prefectural officials and assemblymen to win local support for him. [redacted]

3/6 Nakasone is likely to win the party caucus because his supporters represent 245 of the 421 Liberal Democratic Party Dietmen. Although some members of the Tanaka and Suzuki factions are not enthusiastic backers of Nakasone, he could win even if some 30 members of those factions break ranks. [redacted]

5 The primary will delay action on urgent economic problems, which could hurt the party's image. In addition, the longstanding animosities that made compromise impossible could turn the primary into a mudslinging contest that would further divide the faction-ridden party. Local and national elections next year will test the effect any resulting decline in party prestige might have on popular support. [redacted]

The election also will postpone action on problems with the US. Domestic political turmoil was one reason why Japan was unable to give ground during US-Japanese agriculture negotiations that broke off last week, and progress on defense technology transfer probably will also be delayed. [redacted]

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